Weisburg admits 'touch-up' letter; denies connection

By TOM RAUM Times Staff Writer

Writer Harold Weisburg has confirmed he originated a request last March 12 asking a California artist to "touch-up" photos of Tampan Kerry Thornley to make them look like Lee Harvey Oswald. But the writer denies that New Or-leans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison had anything to do with the project.

In a story yesterday, The Times disclosed that a letter bearing Weisburg's name and what appeared to be the official letterhead of Garrison's office was sent to California artist Fred Newcomb asking for the retouching job.

THORNLEY'S lawyer, Arnold Levine, said he believed the touch-up was to be used by Garrison to support a theory that the Tampan posed as Oswald on several occasions when Oswald was away from New Orleans.

Weisburg, who has published four books on the Kennedy assassination, including "Whitewash" and "Oswald in New Orleans," told The Times from his home in Frederick, Md., that Garrison did not ask him to write the letter, or tell him to send photos of Thornley to the artist to be retouched.

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Weisburg charged that the letter and the partially retouched photos were leaked to The Times as "part of the propaganda campaign being waged against myself and Mr. Garrison."

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